

VIENTIANA COURIER

Nov. 18
1968
No. 191
5th Year

Information Weekly - E.O.: 46 Tran Hung Dao Street, Hanoi - Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

South Viet Nam

* NEW ENEMY DISASTER IN BEN TRE PROVINCE:

**1,000 Men Put Out of Action and 8
Vessels Sunk Between Nov. 1 and Nov. 4.**

*** First Cavalry Division (Air Mobile) Badly
Mauled in Tay Ninh Province.**

*** Serious U.S. Losses in Northern Quang Tri.**

*** P.L.A.F. ARTILLERY PARTICULARLY
ACTIVE ACROSS THE COUNTRY.**

*** 65 Planes and Helicopters
Downed by Regional
Troops and Guerillas in
38 Days.**

On November 12,
Haiphong A.A.
forces knocked
down a pilotless
plane, bringing the
total of U.S. air-
craft downed in
North Viet Nam to

3,245

Page 3

THE spokesman of the
Foreign Ministry of the
Democratic Republic of
Viet Nam today issued the
following statement on the
November 13 statement of
the spokesman of the U.S.
State Department:

"Regarding the November
13, 1968 statement made by
the spokesman on the U.S.
State Department on behalf
of the acting U.S. Secretary
of State, the spokesman of
the Foreign Ministry of the
Democratic Republic of Viet
Nam states as follows:

1. On representation arrange-
ments at the forthcoming
conference on the settlement

of the Viet Nam problem, the
representative of the Demo-
cratic Republic of Viet Nam
in the official con-
versations in Paris has re-
jected the proposal of the U.S.
representative on a type of
conference comprising two
sides in which the two sides

are to organize themselves
according to their choices.
After the unconditional ces-
sation of U.S. air, naval and
artillery bombardments on
the whole territory of the
Democratic Republic of Viet
Nam, the Government of the
Democratic Republic of Viet
Nam asserted in its No-
vember 2 statement: "In
agreement with the Central
Committee of the South Viet
Nam National Front for Li-
beration, the Government of
the Democratic Republic of
Viet Nam declares its readi-
ness to participate in a
conference whose attendance will
comprise representatives of
the Democratic Republic of
Viet Nam, the South Viet
Nam National Front for Li-
beration, the United States
and the Saigon administra-
tion. The Saigon administra-
tion's attendance at the said
conference does not involve
recognition of that regime by
the Democratic Republic of
Viet Nam."

The Government of the
Democratic Republic of Viet
Nam stresses once again that
the present Saigon Admini-

stration is an instrument of
the U.S. imperialists for the
conduct of their aggressive
war and the carrying out of
neo-imperialism in South
Viet Nam, and that it does not
represent anybody. The South
Viet Nam National Front for
Liberation is the consistent
and leader of the South Viet-
namese people in the struggle
against U.S. aggression, for
national salvation; it is the
genuine representative of the
South Vietnamese people. It
is for this reason that the
all problems concerning South
Viet Nam, a reference to
which the U.S. problem
must necessarily be attended
by the South Viet Nam Na-
tional Front for Liberation as
an independent and equal
partner.

2 - The U.S. State Depart-
ment has declared that the
United States is "compelling
reconciliation" of the two
as required" in the air space
of the Democratic Republic
of Viet Nam. It is to be noted
that the United States gives itself
the right to encroach on the
sovereignty, territory and
security of the Democratic

Republic of Viet Nam, an
independent and sovereign
country. This is an insolent
claim of the aggressors who
trample upon the 1954 Geneva
Agreements on Viet Nam
and international law, and
seriously challenge world and
American opinion.

Throughout the past years
and in the official conversa-
tions in Paris, the Democratic
Republic of Viet Nam has
firmly demanded that the
United States unconditionally
stop the bombing raids and
other acts of war against
the Democratic Republic of
Viet Nam. After the uncondi-
tional cessation of U.S. air,
naval and artillery bombard-
ments on the entire territory
of the Democratic Republic
of Viet Nam, the Government
of the Democratic Republic
of Viet Nam on November 2,
1968, firmly demanded once
again that the United States
put an end to its war of
aggression against Viet Nam.
The U.S. aggressors must
give up for good all
micro-bombing on the sover-
eignty and security of the
Democratic Republic of
Viet Nam. The U.S. State
Department's contentions in
this matter have further
exposed the U.S. rulers as
stubborn aggressors.

3. With regard to the so-
called "military actions in
or near the demilitarized
zone and indiscriminate at-
tacks on major cities in the
South," the United States

(Continued page 7)

Nixon Unlikely to Ward off U.S. Aggressors' Defeat

AT the recent U.S. presiden-
tial election, Republi-
can Nixon had a very close win
over his Democratic opponent
Hubert Humphrey.

In the opinion of impartial
observers, Nixon's victory by
no means indicated that
either he or the Republican
party enjoyed any degree of
confidence from the American
people. It simply was a sign
that the latter were sick and
tired of the Democrats and
just voted for a non-Demo-

crat as the only way to show
their discontent.

Indeed, the last eight years
of Democratic rule (1961-68)
have been continual failures
of the Administration, both
at home and abroad: the Viet
Nam war in particular, with
its enormous costs in men and
money, and the painful
defeats suffered by the Ameri-
can expeditionary force, has
become an American nightmare.
As said Joseph Clark

(Continued page 2)

"The 14 Million South Viet- namese Will Fight on Until Not A Single U.S. Aggressor Remains in Our Country"

(NLF) CC Presidium's message
to President Ho Chi Minh:

Esteemed President,

WE have listened with enthusiasm and pride
to every word of your Nov. 3, 1968 appeal
to all compatriots and fighters.
We are deeply touched by the keen interest with
which you follow each advance of the South Viet
Nam revolutionary movement. You have made an
appreciation of the situation and shown the way toward
victory, which fully meets the aspirations of the
South Vietnamese people. Your appeal has instilled
into us and the entire armed forces and people of
South Viet Nam a great encouragement and an iron
confidence in our final victory.

We convey to you our most heartfelt and respectful
thanks, and promise you that we will lead
the entire people and armed forces to strengthen their
solidarity, increase their fighting will, overcome
every hardship and accept every sacrifice, translate
into might and main your appeal into deeds and
strengthen their resolve to fight until complete victory over
the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen, in order to
liberate the South, defend the North and achieve the
ultimate peaceful reunification of the country.

On this occasion, the Presidium of the Central Com-
mittee of the South Viet Nam National Front for
Liberation conveys its deepest sympathy and thanks
to the 17 million brothers and sisters in the
North who have defended the U.S. imperialists' war
of destruction and are wholeheartedly supporting the
liberation fight of South Viet Nam, thereby fulfilling
with merit their obligation as great sons have toward
the great front.

Viet Nam is one, the Vietnamese people are one.
Rivers may run dry and mountains may wear out,
but this truth will never change. The South Vietnamese
people ardently cherish peace, but this must be a peace
in independence and freedom. The 14 million South
Vietnamese people pledge themselves to unite millions
as one man, stand shoulder to shoulder with their
17 million workers, compatriots and fight on with
arms in hands until not a single U.S. aggressor
remains in our country.

The U.S. imperialists will surely be defeated!
The Vietnamese people will surely win!
May you enjoy good health and a long life.

South Viet Nam, Nov. 6, 1968,

NGUYEN HUU THO

President of the Presidium of the South
Viet Nam N.F.L. Central Committee

3

Abrams Beaten in His Own Game

WHEN four-star general Creighton Abrams succeeded Westmoreland in April 1968, the American press liked to present him as the tank-man of Patton's army riding on French roads from the Channel to the Ardennes and apparently contributing to the U.S. victory over the Nazis in their last ditch on the Western front in 1944. It is therefore easy to under-

stand the role he has been assigning to the panzers, to these "steel fortresses" with a great mobility and a formidable fire-power, in the U.S. war of aggression in South Viet Nam. Before Abrams, M. 41 tanks and M. 113 and M. 118 amphibious cars were widely used against the guerrillas, but this time particular emphasis is laid on them by this panzer-war specialist.

INEFFICIENCY OF ARMoured "BELTS"

In the new strategy with which he has replaced his predecessor's "search-and-destroy", Abrams heavily tanks on his armored vehicles to make security "belts" and "enclaves" and as force of intervention in his "clear and hold" strategy. Motorized infantry units have been set up on the spot as in Tay Ninh and Binh Long provinces during the P.L.A.F. attacks last summer. A new division of this kind has been sent over by air and sea and its first brigade landed in Da Nang on August 3, 1968. The 11th Armored Regiment has been continually replenished in men and materials to fill the gaps caused by the Liberation troops.

The defense system of the enemy is made up of such belts as barbed wire entanglements, mine-fields, ditches and also strategic hamlets. Added to all this are the protection belts formed by armored vehicles surrounding this network. Abrams thinks that this "armor" which has a great fire-power and can furthermore be changed at will makes his defense much stronger and less "stiff".

"ENCLAVES" OVERRUN ONE AFTER THE OTHER

In his "defense in depth" tactics, Abrams also uses armored vehicles to set up "enclaves" in the centre of their bases so as to make very powerful resistance posts and a mobile force capable of rapidly receding any threatened point in his outer belt, of bridging the gap in the defense system or launching counter-attacks to re-occupy the sectors taken by the besiegers. Under P.L.A.F. powerful assaults, Abrams goes to the length of imitating the defenders of Sebastopol or Stalingrad, to bury his vehicles in the earth so as to make them genuine fortresses redoubtable for their fire power and wide firing range.

However, with their dash and skill, the patriots find efficient antidotes. They combine frontal attacks with

sparebuds and concentrate their fire on a well-chosen narrow spot on the outer armour of the enemy system to which they penetrate in no time. Operating in the centre of this system, they attack the enemy resistance units in the rear, and, like an explosive charge rammed deep into a rock, they destroy the enemy position from within. Very often, the enemy has no time to rescue its threatened points, to group up one another or to launch effective counter-attacks. What happened at Duc Lap at the end of August and beginning of September last, at Loc Ninh and in Quang Tri province, south of the demilitarized zone, where U.S. fortified camps were taken by main force, has shown the futility of Abrams's effort.

THE fate of the enemy's armored forces is no better. Take for instance, the operations in Da Nang region end of August last. At that time, the enemy defence system was broken through in the south and southeast by the P.L.A.F. occupation of many positions along the Cam Lo river and on the Non Nuoc marble mountain. An armored squadron and an infantry regiment mounted a counter-attack to drive the people's forces far from the town. In three days, August 23-25, in skillfully laid ambushes and well-coordinated attacks, the patriots forces completely wiped out the armored squadron and two infantry battalions. On August 30, 20 armored vehicles were rapidly reduced into heaps of scrap iron.

August 21 was the most disastrous day for the enemy armored cars which were destroyed by barrages of fire of the patriots fighting in Da Nang streets, while 60 km further southeast, near the Tam Ky provincial capital, a heavy armored column was intercepted by the P.L.A.F. who destroyed or damaged 60 armored cars and tanks. A third squadron of the puppet army lost all its 33 vehicles.

In Nam Bo, U.S. armored forces

received very hard blows. September 14, an enemy column moving on the Hoa Quan - Loc Ninh road, had 30 vehicles destroyed. In three ambushes laid on August 25, on Road No. 22, southeast of Tay Ninh, the P.L.A.F. within 150 minutes put out of action 133 enemy vehicles and captured 5 armored cars; a column of 20 vehicles was completely wiped out. At the end of August last, on the Tay Ninh - Da Nang road, the patriots set 7 ambushes, putting out of action nearly 200 tanks, armored cars and military trucks.

But the "regular" troops are not the only ones to destroy panzers. Regional forces and guerrillas have now light but efficient anti-tank arms such as the famous M-40 bazookas, lethal mines and other devastating devices. Thus, in the Western High Plateaux, in the engagements fought on August 17, 23 and 31, the highlanders succeeded in destroying or damaging 150 enemy vehicles. Holding the records in this regard were such P.L.A.F. fighters as Tran Van Phung who destroyed 4 armored vehicles with 4 anti-tank shells, a young girl in Da Nang who achieved the same exploit and Tran Van Ut who improved the performance by scoring 5 direct hits with 5 shells.

FAILURE OF U.S. PANZER WAR

ACCORDING to still incomplete figures, in the three weeks at the end of August and beginning of September, at least 173 American vehicles were destroyed or damaged in Quang Tri province and around Da Nang, 207 others in Loc Ninh region, 250 in the Western High Plateaux. With its strategic situation and its terrain suitable to massive deployment of panzers, Tay Ninh province was a real cemetery of American armor. While in Winter 1966 - Spring 1967, Westmoreland lost 203 vehicles, Abrams outdid him by having 83 engines destroyed from August 19 to September 21.

These huge losses have greatly affected the morale of enemy troops.

In the last few months many of them refused to board armored carriers to go into action. Near Da Nang, elements of the puppet 50th Ranger Battalion, numbered in the thick of the fight, destroying 38 M.113's and killing and wounding 54 die-hard, and passed over to the side of the patriots. In an ambush laid on August 15 on Road No. 22, many U.S. tank crews abandoned their vehicles to save their bacon at the first explosion of P.L.A.F. shells.

There cannot be any clearer symptomatic signs of the failure of the panzer tactics (labeled by Abrams.



Enemy tank captured by Liberation fighters

SECOND ANTI-U.S. IMPERIALISM FRONT OPENED AND CONSOLIDATED IN THE UNITED STATES

THREE years ago, through heroic protest against the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam (draft-dodging, sit-ins, strikes, etc.), while the first Americans fighting for peace and justice in Viet Nam heralded the storm that was going to sweep down from San Francisco to Washington, important political events have rocked the country. From San Francisco to Washington, from Miami to Detroit, the popular campaign against the support to the Vietnamese people, in coordination with actions for civil rights and democracy, has been rising like a tidal wave.

While a few years ago only a handful of American citizens, for the sake of humanity and fraternity came out against the war of aggression in Viet Nam, their numbers have swelled to millions: workers, peasants, students, scientists, craftsmen, religious believers, Negroes, Indians... According to still incomplete figures, more than 130 mass organizations in 49 States and 412 cities are struggling against the war of aggression in Viet Nam and for civil rights, and more than ten million people have participated in demonstrations against the "dirty" war.

In the course of this struggle, the American people have become aware of the true nature of the Viet Nam war and put out their own watchwords. Right from the start of the cynical "escalation" on the North Vietnamese and especially since Johnson gave the order to bomb Hanoi and Haiphong, people of all walks of life in the U.S.A. have been insisting on an immediate and unconditional halt to the bombing. Another watchword of the popular drives was withdrawal of G.I.s from South Viet Nam, recognition of the N.P.L. and negotiations with it in order to find a settlement to the Viet Nam problem. More and more progressive Americans have realized the righteousness of the Vietnamese people's struggle and have wholeheartedly participated in the collection of blood, money and medicines for the Vietnamese people. Spectacular actions by American students and youths against the draft have seriously delayed the Pentagon's plans for recruiting G.I.s and sending them to Viet Nam.

U.S. legislators have suffered from strikes by tens of thousands of workers and by intellectual workers. Engineers, engineering industries of civil aeronautics, maritime transport, etc. Desertion and insubordination by both white and Black soldiers in protest against the war of aggression launched by American financial magnates have contributed to fanning operational plans and undermining the morale of U.S. satellite and puppet troops.

The war of aggression in Viet Nam not only accelerates the pauperization of the American toiling masses but also alarmingly reduces the already insupportable appropriations reserved by the American capitalist state for the building of kindergartens, schools, parks have been slashed. The anti-

poverty budget has been trimmed and student scholarships cut down. Hence military and social decadence has been precipitated, while militarism and neo-fascism have been making headway. Following the tragic death of Dr. Martin Luther King and Senator Robert Kennedy, Johnson has been forced to admit that crime has been the rampart in American society the last few years.

The war of aggression in Viet Nam is a veritable ignominy for the U.S.A., a burden on its material and spiritual life, on the body and soul of the American citizen. It has been bringing ruin to the lives of millions, realization that the drive for an end to the war in Viet Nam is not only a fight for freedom and peace but also one for the defence of the interests of the American people. The Viet Nam war has shown to the latter that the "paradise of the free world" in the U.S.A. is not much valued by the pen hirelings of the bourgeoisie, is but the "national interest" and the "Great Society" advertised in hundreds of Johnson speeches in both houses of Congress.

The great successes won by the Vietnamese people in their resistance to the U.S. war for national salvation, have brought home to the American people that the cost of revolutionary violence is not inevitable, and this has encouraged them to fight with the struggle for their rights.

The enormous expenditures required by "escalation" have pared down reserves, diminished and slowed the rate of development in the various branches of civilian production, and hastened the disintegration of the national economy. Johnson has let it be known that the Viet Nam war has brought about a \$3-billion deficit for the American budget ending June 30, 1968. To fill that yawning gap, the U.S. financial oligarchy has frantically imposed taxes on workers' wages, and on the salaries of other working people while increasing indirect taxes and issuing more banknotes and bonds.

At the date of July 1, 1968, each American family pays 500 dollars in taxes. The war of aggression in Viet Nam this year is the direct cause of a terrible evil for the American economy: a gold hemorrhage, the "agony of the dollar".

The war of aggression in Viet Nam not only accelerates the pauperization of the American toiling masses but also alarmingly reduces the already insupportable appropriations reserved by the American capitalist state for the building of kindergartens, schools, parks have been slashed. The anti-

WE WISH THE AMERICAN PROGRESSIVE PEOPLE MANY MORE SUCCESSES

THE revolutionary movement of the world people, the centre of which is now in Viet Nam, constitutes the first anti-American imperialism front. A second one has taken shape in the very heart of the U.S.A. Its formation sparks off a phase of "terrible chaos" for the rulers of the U.S.A. Because of this the men in Washington have stepped up ruthless terror against the popular struggle. Up to the year, up to the end of this year, the militant administration threw in jail thousands of Americans militating for freedom, killed 126 and wounded 430, counting only those brought to hospital. True, such bloody repressive measures may at a given moment cause difficulties and losses to the masses' movement. But bayonets, rifle butts, water cannons, gas grenades, courts and prisons are not enough for weakening the American people's will, only harden it. The struggle for the just struggle is illustrated by living symbols: M. Morrison who burnt himself to show his abhorrence of the war in Viet Nam, D. Miller who tore his hair out in preference to go to jail rather than participate in the absurd war in Viet Nam, the 80-year old Rev. Mute who travelled

half way around the world to call on the people of the U.S.A. and the world to oppose the war in Viet Nam, Dr. Benjamin Spock who before an American court voiced his condemnation of the barbarous designs and deeds of the U.S. aggressors. The strength of the anti-imperialist struggle can also be seen in the tumultuous rallies and demonstrations in hundreds of American cities and towns. These fine images of progressive Americans will remain engraved in the hearts of our people and in those of peace, justice and freedom-loving people the world over.

The Vietnamese people send their cordial greetings and express their militant solidarity with the 200 million Americans. The "staunch tank workers", youth, student, and women's organizations and progressive intellectuals, members of Congress, and priests in the U.S.A. who courageously continue to raise their voices and stage demonstrations against the criminal aggression pursued by the American imperialists in the legitimate struggle of the patriotic forces in Viet Nam ("r").

We sincerely wish the American progressives many more and still bigger successes in their just struggle.

(*) From President Ho Chi Minh's message to the American review Minority of One.

The Cost of Butter; The Cost of Guns

A DO-IT-YOURSELF COMPARISON TEST COST OF WAR IN VIET NAM

\$30 billion each year	2.5 billion each month
\$82 million each day	3.4 million each hour
\$7,000 each minute	950 each second

Problem
L.B.J.'s 10 percent tax surcharge will add an estimated \$10.8 billion to the budget.

Problem
How many months of war will stimulate the need for the 10 percent tax surcharge if we stopped the war 4 months and 1 day sooner.

Problem
Gov. Kerner's U.S. Riot Commission Report says we need new housing units in 1969. L.B.J. says we'll have to build 200,000 more units. It would cost \$4.5 billion to add 300,000 more units at an estimated \$15,000 a unit.

Problem
L.B.J.'s austerity budget cuts \$5.1 billion from Head Start program.

Problem
L.B.J.'s austerity budget cuts \$1.1 billion from college building, books, equipment, guidance and testing grants.

Problem
The U.S. Riot Commission Report says we need new housing units in 1969. L.B.J. says we'll have to build 200,000 more units. It would cost \$4.5 billion to add 300,000 more units at an estimated \$15,000 a unit.

Problem
L.B.J.'s austerity budget cuts \$5.1 billion from Head Start program.

Problem
L.B.J.'s austerity budget cuts \$1.1 billion from college building, books, equipment, guidance and testing grants.

Problem
L.B.J.'s austerity budget cuts \$1.1 billion from college building, books, equipment, guidance and testing grants.

Problem
L.B.J.'s austerity budget cuts \$1.1 billion from college building, books, equipment, guidance and testing grants.

aid to federally impacted areas.
Q: How many hours of war used up those funds?
A: 5 hours of war would pay for school aid cut from low-income areas.

Problem
L.B.J.'s austerity budget cuts \$5.1 billion from new health research facilities construction.

Problem
Q: How many hours of war used up those funds?
A: 8 1/2 hours of war would pay for \$25 million cut from health research facilities.

Problem
Q: How many hours of war used up those funds?
A: 4 1/2 days of war would pay for federal aid cut from colleges.

Problem
Based on a Women strike for Peace leaflet.

ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

MILITARY OPERATIONS

SINCE Nov. 1 PLAF attacks have been kept up across South Viet Nam.

Most remarkable victories have been won in Ben Tre province (Mekong estuaries) where from Nov. 1 to Nov. 4 the patriots destroyed an 18-vessel river flotilla including a 350-metre long ship and put 1,000 GIs and puppet soldiers out of action.

Important successes have also been obtained in Tay Ninh province where the U.S. command has just hastily transferred the *First Air Cavalry* from the Hue—Quang Tri sector in the Far North: From Nov. 4 to Nov. 7, at 3 places in this province, the PLAF inflicted at least 300 U.S.-puppet casualties, destroyed 2 U.S. platoons and shot down 3 choppers.

Close to the 17th parallel, just South of the demilitarized zone, from Nov. 7 to Nov. 10, 280 enemy troops, mostly GIs, were killed or wounded.

Particular mention should be made of the activities of artillerymen who have been daily slamming shells on the adversary bases and positions (about 40) from the Northern-most sector to the Mekong Delta. Some targets received as many as from 50 to 150 projectiles.

The hunt for planes and helicopters conducted by fighters of the regional forces and guerrilla corps has been particularly fruitful: 65 engines cut down between Oct. 2 and Nov. 7. Regional troops and guerrillas also wiped out 1,500 adverse soldiers in 13 days ending Nov. 7.

NEW SUCCESSES OF THE P.L.A.F. IN BEN TRE PROVINCE

COUNTERING a major sweep involving elements of the U.S. 9th Infantry Division and 3 regiments of puppet Division 7, on Nov. 1, the patriots intercepted a U.S. river fleet comprising a 350-metre long vessel and many landing craft and lighters on the Mekong, about a dozen kilometres below My Tho city.

Their direct hits sank the

big vessel, 15 landing craft and 2 lighters. 500 G.I.s were killed or wounded and a vessel sent to the bottom with a helicopter on board. Two days later, enemy forces swept 12 villages of Gieng Trom district, Southeast of Ben Tre city, about 20 km south of the previous scene of fighting where the river fleet was destroyed. On Nov. 3, more than 130 U.S.-puppet troops were put out of action and a helicopter grounded. Next day, a major battle took place at Son Phu (6 km South of Ben Tre).

Throughout the day, 20 enemy assaults were repulsed by the P.L.A.F. which inflicted 400 casualties and brought down 3 copters. Four enemy battalions and 4 companies suffered serious losses.

All told, from Nov. 1 to Nov. 4, the enemy lost in this sector over 1,000 men, 18 vessels and lighters sunk and 4 choppers shot down or destroyed.

This was the 2nd great disaster the enemy had experienced in this sector in a week. It should be recalled that in the other action which took place from Sept. 15 to Oct. 25, the P.L.A.F. of Ben Tre put 4,500 adversaries out of action, sank or burnt 79 vessels and motor launches and shot down or damaged 25 planes and helicopters.

P.L.A.F. RENEWED OFFENSIVE IN TAY NINH PROVINCE

AT the end of Oct., Abrams pulled the First Air Cavalry out of the theatre of operation in the Northern sector and deployed it into Tay Ninh province to face the increasing pressure of the P.L.A.F. Very soon after their arrival, the "flying horsemen" took serious beatings. On Nov. 4, at a point about 50 km Northeast of Tay Ninh, close to the border, a G.I. platoon was wiped out. Next day, a puppet paratrooper battalion suffered 120 casualties 20 km South Southeast of Tay Ninh. On Nov. 6, the *First Air Cavalry* had 150 men including a captain wiped out some 40 km Northeast of the same city. On Nov. 7, GIs sent in to remove the dead suffered further losses: one platoon destroyed.

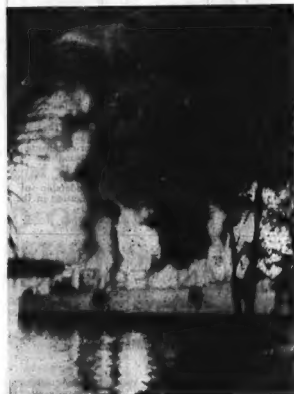
In the last days of Oct., sharp engagement took place in the Saigon area. On the night of Oct. 28 to Oct. 29, nearly 300 adversary troops including 500 GIs were killed or wounded and campements burnt, some 20 km south of the city. In the Southeast of the city, on the shipping channel, 4 enemy vessels were sunk and 3 others burnt on Dong Trach river on Oct. 24 and Oct. 26. At 20 km south of Nha Be, the U.S. freighter *Fred Morris* was hit on Nov. 3 by the patriots' shells.

On Oct. 25, at the U.S. *Dong Da* base, near Cu Chi (40 km northwest of Saigon) the guerrillas succeeded in blasting down a club of the *Tropic Lightning* Division, killing or wounding 119 GIs among them 8 senior officers.

Liberation People's Committee Set Up In Kien Phong Province

A congress was held on October 17 in Kien Phong province to appoint a 7-member Liberation People's Committee for the province.

The congress was attended by members of the local NFL representatives of various services, mass organizations, religious sects, political parties and many personalities and intellectuals.



U.S. ship burnt on the Perle River in the very heart of Hue city.

A U.S. Bomb Takes 103 Casualties at South Viet Nam Market

ON November 1, a F-4 jet plane dropped four 250-kg bombs on Tam Hoa village, 30 km southwest of Da Nang. UPI reported. One of them fell on the market, killing 31 people, wounding 73 others and destroying or damaging about twenty houses.

The new crime committed in a region still held by the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys has touched off a wave of indignation among the local people. As it could not be hushed up, the spokesman of the U.S. Marines at Da Nang tried to whitewash it by

saying that it was a "mistake."

PREVIOUSLY on Oct. 24, in Kien Phong province, American air strikes had destroyed Ong Chua pagoda, Nhu Binh village, Cao Lanh district. It was the tenth time that this pagoda had been subjected to U.S.A.F. attacks.

Since the beginning of 1968, four pagodas, four churches, a Cao Dai Holy See and a Protestant temple in that province have been destroyed by the enemy.

In Saigon, on Nov. 13 patriots meted out due punishment to cruel agents right in the street and safely made off.

ACTIVITIES OF ARTILLERYMEN

AT least 40 military targets were pounded by the patriots from Nov. 3 to Nov. 4. The hardest hit were several U.S. artillery positions in Gio Linh, Con Lian and Cam Lo, South of the 17th parallel, a position of the U.S. 101st Airborne Division and a sub-sector HQ near Hue city, a puppet position at Tam Ky and another at Quang Ngai, Southeast of Da Nang. A number of U.S.

bases in the Western High lands, especially at An Khe (where a million litres of petrol were burned by a fire touched off by a previous shelling on Oct. 30 near Dakle), the *Buon Me Thuot* airfield and the CP of the Quang Duc sector at Gio Nghia also came under shelling. Heavy artillery barrages were unleashed against the sector HQ's at Hau Nghia (40 km West-Northwest of Saigon), Long Khanh (50 km North-Northeast of Saigon) and Can Tho (Mekong delta). The Tan Trach airfield near Ben Tre also came under fire as well as positions North of Saigon and in My Tho province.